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abolishing the institution, might be modified and the institution maintained by Government as was done before, or that its management might be entrusted to the people.

Dewan's reply.—The decision of Government has been come to after careful consideration. The question cannot be re-opened.

122. Extension of the Nagercoil Town and the question of its water supply.

Mr. Paul Daniel (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that the population of the town was increasing every year. The educational and other public institutions in the place drew towards it every year a large number of people from the surrounding villages, who settled there for the education of their children, for employment in the institutions and offices and for menial work. By this and by natural multiplication, the population of the town was increasing by leaps and bounds. But he stated that there was no corresponding increase in the available area of the town. The Member represented that certain parts remained congested, not because there was no room for extension, but only for want of a few roads and wells in localities where there was extensive space for building. He suggested that there was unlimited scope for expansion in the west and southwest and the land in that direction was most favourable for building, as it rose much higher than the valley in which the present town was situated. He requested that the town might be expanded towards the west and the southwest to remove the congestion of the present town. The Member also pointed out that the inhabitants of the town were suffering a great deal for want of good drinking water. The Member suggested the following scheme for the supply of good drinking water to the town from the waters of the Patchipara. As more than two-thirds of the houses in the town were on low ground, they could be easily supplied with water from a reservoir constructed at a little distance and furnished with filtering apparatus; and the people were prepared to pay a reasonable tax. In conclusion, he submitted that the scheme was feasible and worth the careful consideration of the Government, there was real need, and the water was at hand; much of the town was low and the cost was not likely to be prohibitive

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

ERANIEL TALUK.

123. Construction of branch kals from the Thiruvankode Channel.

Mr. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Eraniel Taluk) said that the land-holders in Nattalam, Killiyur and Patharai were subject to great hardship, owing to the absence of agricultural facilities. He requested

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therefore that Government might order the construction of branch kals from the Thiruvankode Channel to irrigate the lands at those places and thus avert famine and drought to which they were constantly exposed. The branch kals, if cut, would not only irrigate existing lands but also serve to bring new lands under cultivation. The Member also prayed that the cutting of the Amaravathi branch, which had been sanctioned, might be carried out.

Dewan's reply.—I have to repeat the answer I gave to the Eraniel Member last year, that any further extension of the Thiruvancode Channel is out of the question. The Thiruvancode Main Channel is not in an efficient condition, and it would be a mistake to increase the number of its branches, as proposed by the Member. Government are anxious to bring the Kodayar works to a close. They cannot allow those works to be spun out indefinitely.

124. Early construction of sluices in the Eraniel Channel.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi (Member, Eraniel Taluk) stated that nearly 300 acres of land had been converted into fields in accordance with the G. O. regarding the water-cess. But recently, the ryots who were thus converting the dry lands into fields, expecting water from the Thiruvancode and Eraniel kals, were prevented from doing so by a Gazette Notification. According to this Notification, the sluices that had been provided some time back for the supply of water to these converted fields were removed. The Member represented that the ryots were put to much hardship and loss by the sudden removal of the sluices. Therefore, the Member prayed either for the early construction of sluices in the Eraniel Channel for feeding the converted lands, as those already supplied had been removed, or the taxes according to the settlement rate might be abolished till permanent sluices were provided.

Dewan's reply.—The ryots will have to make their own branch canals. The D. P. W. will give them the sluices. The construction of sluices and the development of irrigation should ordinarily proceed from the higher to the lower reaches.

KALKULAM TALUK.

125. Prevention of the submergence of the paddy lands bordering on the Pamburivaikal.

Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) represented that the paddy lands bordering on the channel were subject to much damage by being submerged. The Member prayed that the silt which had accumulated in the channel might be removed to prevent the submergence of the paddy lands bordering on the channel.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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